

ICAT at COP29: Summary of activities and results

COP29 in Baku was a special event for climate transparency: As 2024 is the year when the first biennial transparency reports (BTRs) are due, COP29 was a moment to celebrate progress and recognize the submission of many BTRs already two months before the deadline. The COP29 Presidency held a ministerial roundtable on global climate transparency, which recognized the BTRs submitted, including those of three ICAT countries (Maldives, Kazakhstan, and Panama). At the event, several countries acknowledged ICAT support.

COP29 was also an excellent opportunity to focus on how transparency could help countries be better prepared to put the Paris Agreement on track to meeting its objectives and set the foundations for long-term effective climate action. Show-casing examples of how this is done and enabling an exchange between national experts was the focus of ICAT's activities in Baku.

ICAT hosted/co-hosted side-events

Aligning transparency: Navigating BTRs and NDCs for enhanced climate action

Saturday, 16 November 2024

Co-hosted by ICAT with: UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre, CBIT-GSP

[Watch the recording](#)

The submission of the first BTRs marks a pivotal step in tracking progress toward global climate goals. Simultaneously, countries are preparing their next nationally determined contributions (NDCs), due in 2025. With these processes happening concurrently, there is a significant opportunity for countries to create synergies between them. The event emphasized the critical importance of aligning BTRs and NDCs to enhance the effectiveness of climate strategies. Panelists from Cuba, the Philippines, and Zimbabwe shared valuable



insights on managing these interconnected processes to ensure they complement one another.

Best practices highlighted included:

- Fostering collaboration and integration of teams working on BTRs and NDCs;
- Streamlining transparency processes through robust institutional and legal arrangements using solid data;
- Strengthening national ownership and capacity building by embedding climate change into national development agendas;
- Adopting a systematic approach to progress tracking by integrating NDC tracking into existing monitoring frameworks; and
- Aligning measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) frameworks for both mitigation and adaptation.

ICAT participated as a speaker at the event, highlighting its role in supporting countries through these complex processes, and reiterated its commitment to assisting countries in using data and analysis applied for their BTRs and NDC updates. ICAT's resources, including those in the [ICAT Toolbox](#), provide invaluable support for enhancing countries' planning, understanding of climate efforts, and resource management, enabling more effective and impactful climate action.

Experiences of ECCAS member countries in the preparation of transparency frameworks as a basis for their BTRs, NDCs, and long term, low emission development strategies

Tuesday, 19 November 2024

Co-hosted by ICAT with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

[Watch the recording](#)

This event, organized by the ICAT Regional Hub in Central Africa and hosted by ECCAS, showcased the significant strides made by Central African States in strengthening their transparency frameworks.

Ministers and vice-ministers from six ECCAS member states (Angola, Burundi, Comoros, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tome & Principe), as well as the Commissioner of ECCAS participated. Other ECCAS member states were represented at senior official level.

Henning Wuester, the ICAT Director, delivered opening remarks, setting the stage for discussions on the progress made by hub member countries in preparing essential reports and policy documents for the UNFCCC, including BTRs, NDCs, and long-term strategies. He highlighted the importance of building national transparency frameworks that could bring continuity to countries' efforts in collecting and analysing data and information to strengthen their climate policies and actions, and meet their reporting commitments.

Nine hub member states presented progress and experiences in developing transparency frameworks, implementing transparency improvement plans, and addressing opportunities and challenges identified in regional workshops. Since its establishment in 2022, significant progress has been made, and the ICAT Regional Hub has been instrumental in enhancing the region's capacity for domestic climate action and fulfilling commitments under the Paris Agreement.



Additionally, the event took stock of the support provided to mobilize resources for implementing climate action and highlighted critical elements for shaping a roadmap for next steps. This dialogue reinforced the shared commitment to advancing transparency frameworks to enhance climate action across Central Africa. Ministers present emphasized the inadequacy of climate finance flows into the region and the significant needs of the region in terms of adaptation, as well as the potential of the Congo Basin with its vast forest resources to contribute to global climate objectives.

Next generation NDCs: Catalyzing economy-wide transformation

Tuesday, 19 November 2024

Co-hosted with: Chile, United Kingdom, World Resources Institute (WRI), We Mean Business Coalition

The next generation of NDCs, due early next year, presents a pivotal opportunity for countries to drive climate action for years to come. Limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius requires transformative action across nearly every sector globally. To achieve this, countries are encouraged to set ambitious emission reduction targets for

2030 and 2035, complemented by strategic planning processes within ministries for sectoral transformation. A data-driven approach, rooted in transparency, allows countries to develop realistic and ambitious NDC targets, enabling informed decision-making at the national level.

At this side event, key public and private sector voices, including Juan Carlos Muñoz Abogabir (Chile's Minister of Transport), Rachel Kyte (UK Climate Envoy), Andres Tosma Pica Tellez (Head of Climate Change Division, Chile's Ministry of Environment), and representatives from Fiji, WRI, and the World Benchmarking Alliance, reflected on the upcoming NDC updates. Fiji and Chile shared valuable insights into their ongoing ICAT projects, emphasizing how ICAT's support had strengthened their transparency frameworks and facilitated progress in climate action planning.



Chile also offered a compelling case study of such efforts. The Minister of Transport, Juan Carlos Muñoz Abogabir, highlighted the country's progress in mitigating energy sector emissions, leading to a significant shift in its emissions profile. With transportation now contributing a larger share of total greenhouse gas emissions, Chile is responding by expanding its electric vehicle fleet to decarbonize the sector. The Minister emphasized the critical role of robust data in guiding these efforts, enabling the setting of ambitious yet achievable targets. Chile is actively working on updating its NDCs, ensuring they reflect the evolving dynamics of its emissions landscape.

This event illuminated the centrality of robust data and cross-sectoral collaboration in updating NDCs to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement. By leveraging these tools, countries can create a blueprint for sustainable development that aligns with global climate goals while addressing national priorities.

The discussions underscored the necessity of transforming sectors like energy, agriculture, and transport to accelerate the global shift away from fossil fuels while fostering economic growth. Special attention was given to engaging cities and private sector actors as critical

players in this transition. The importance for careful planning of using the cooperative mechanisms under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement was also highlighted.

Strengthening climate action transparency in Central Asia: Lessons, needs, and future directions

Wednesday, 20 November 2024

Co-hosted by ICAT with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)

This [event](#) was organized by the ICAT Regional Hub in Central Asia, co-hosted by CAREC at the Kazakhstan pavilion. The event engaged regional experts, government representatives, and international stakeholders to discuss how to further enhance transparency within the region to enable Central Asian countries to effectively contribute to global climate action and meet their reporting obligations. It reviewed key achievements from the first three years of the hub, highlighting capacity built among national and regional experts on greenhouse gas inventory management, adaptation tracking, and climate finance. The



event also addressed the remaining needs of the countries of Central Asia and discussed plans for expanding the hub into new areas of engagement.

Speakers included Mansur Oshurbaev, Vice-Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Zafar Makhmudov, CAREC Executive Director; Henning Wuester, ICAT Director; and representatives from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

In his opening remarks, the ICAT Director congratulated Kazakhstan on being among the first ten countries that submitted its BTR. He emphasized the need for having both strong leadership and qualified experts to build the sustainable transparency frameworks needed to effectively implement the Paris Agreement. He also highlighted next steps.

“The BTR submission is not the end, but rather the beginning of an important process. The data and information presented in the BTRs sets the basis for further enhancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and specifically for strengthening the NDCs through the updates due in 2025”, said Dr. Wuester.

Speakers and participants shared information and discussed their experiences with the work carried out under the ICAT regional hub in Central Asia, which supported national experts to strengthen their inventory systems, develop more accurate forecasts, and integrate climate aspects into policy measures.

Transparency for effectively managing climate finance

Wednesday, 20 November 2024

Co-hosted by ICAT with: Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, and the Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP).

Climate finance transparency is a cornerstone for countries' ability to effectively manage resources for climate action, both mitigation and adaptation. It enables the estimation of financial needs, the assessment of impact on national climate targets, and the estimation of national climate finance flows. Additionally, it fosters trust among countries and stakeholders by supporting robust domestic and international reporting on climate finance flows.

ICAT launched its [Climate Finance Transparency Guide](#) at COP29, where climate finance was at the centre of many discussions. The ICAT Director provided opening remarks and presented the guide. He highlighted the critical role of transparency in mobilizing, managing, and allocating climate finance for maximum impact.



The guide serves as a resource for developing countries, helping them establish and implement national climate finance transparency frameworks to attract and deploy funds effectively.

As part of a panel discussion, Côte d'Ivoire exemplified these principles, showcasing its commitment to climate finance transparency.

The government is advancing its Green Finance Platform to mobilize climate funds through international collaboration. As part of this effort, Côte d'Ivoire has launched an information portal offering stakeholders access to critical resources such as the national development plan, NDCs, and national adaptation plans. Additionally, training programmes and a monitoring framework for green finance are being developed to ensure accountability and effectiveness.

The event also featured country experiences demonstrating how transparency frameworks can empower nations to mobilize resources, track financial flows, and maximize the impact of climate investments. This multi-faceted approach underscores the transformative potential of transparency in driving global climate action while aligning financial systems with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Speakers included representatives from Belize, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, ICAT, CCAP.

Monitoring, reporting and verification systems as a transparency tool for climate management

Thursday, 21 November 2024

Co-hosted by ICAT with El Salvador

To effectively track the progress of NDCs and enhance climate action implementation, robust MRV frameworks are essential. These frameworks provide transparency, support better policy and programme design, and serve as a critical tool for mobilizing finance and increasing the ambition of mitigation and the effectiveness of adaptation efforts.

The event explored the pivotal role of MRV frameworks in advancing NDC implementation and accessing climate finance. The discussions highlighted experiences, challenges, and lessons learned in developing MRV frameworks for NDC tracking while identifying collaboration opportunities to strengthen these systems. MRV frameworks enable data generation to monitor progress, inform decision-making, and align policies with climate goals, creating pathways to climate finance mechanisms and enhancing trust among stakeholders.



At the beginning of the session, H.E. Fernando López Larreynaga, Minister of Environment of El Salvador, and Henning Wuester, ICAT Director, signed an agreement to extend the ICAT project in El Salvador. In their statements, they underscored the importance of international collaboration in strengthening climate transparency. The project will

support El Salvador's efforts in updating its NDCs and build a tracking framework for the new NDC targets.

ICAT also participated in a panel discussion, contributing insights on how MRV frameworks and transparency could become significant advantages for countries seeking to mobilize and attract climate finance.

The Dominican Republic shared its journey in establishing institutional arrangements with ICAT's support, which led to a decree formalizing these structures. The country now boasted over 16 memoranda of understanding to advance its climate objectives.

Bolivia highlighted its progress in MRV for the energy sector and stressed the importance of regional peer exchanges to foster collaboration and shared learning.

These insights demonstrate how MRV systems not only facilitate NDC implementation but also position countries to access much-needed climate finance, fostering a transparent, collaborative approach to global climate action.

Speakers included representatives from El Salvador, Bolivia, Costa Rica, ICAT, and Dominican Republic

Partner-Hosted Events

Strengthening transparency in small island developing states in the Pacific

Tuesday, 12 November 2024 and Wednesday, 13 November 2024

Hosted by Fiji, Vanuatu, the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute, and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition

[Watch the recording](#)

The event provided an opportunity to discuss potential pathways for the improvement of methane reporting from the agriculture and waste sectors under the Paris Agreement's enhanced transparency framework (ETF). It showcased Fiji's pilot search and analysis of methane mitigation potential for wastewater and manure management and enabled a discussion with fellow experts in Oceania and other developing countries. The event also provided an opportunity for mainstreaming the mitigation of short-lived climate pollutants into sectoral policies and upcoming NDCs.

Key messages included:

- Small island developing nations in the Pacific were negligible greenhouse gas emitters. In spite of that, they are demonstrating their commitment to the Paris Agreement through solid data and transparency.
- Pacific countries were taking steps to reduce emissions on non-CO₂ gases, such as methane and other short-lived climate pollutants. These gases had very high potential for global warming, so mitigating these emissions rapidly impacts greenhouse gas concentrations, as well as showing other benefits, including on human health.
- Transparency was a powerful tool for advancing Pacific nations' mitigation efforts. Pacific countries were using data not only to report to the world, but also to evaluate and enhance their policies and actions to ensure that they had a real impact.
- Fiji was expanding its data coverage, moving to Tier 2 data in agriculture, and including hydrofluorocarbons and the waste sector.
- Vanuatu was using data for policy impact assessment in agriculture, based on which it would develop concrete recommendations for policy improvement.
- For small island developing nations, the 1.5 degree target was a question of survival. Transparency was bringing them closer to achieving it.



Strengthening holistic approaches for NDC 3.0 and Paris Agreement implementation

Thursday, 14 November 2024, 11:30-13:00

Hosted by the UNFCCC and NDC Partnership

At an event co-hosted by UNFCCC and the NDC Partnership, experts and practitioners discussed strategies for updating their NDCs and effectively implementing the Paris Agreement. The current NDCs fall short of aligning the world with the goals of the Paris Agreement. However, 2025 presents a critical opportunity to correct this trajectory through the development of evidence-based NDCs that are more ambitious. By leveraging data

included in the BTRs, countries can build stronger, more informed climate pledges that are both actionable and measurable.

A holistic approach enables countries to employ the same data used for reporting under the Paris Agreement to inform the development of NDCs, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, and national policies. This systemic integration improves policy coherence, strengthens national climate frameworks, facilitates better mobilization of climate finance, and enhances readiness for Article 6 activities.



Drawing on the experiences of Cambodia, Jordan, and Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, the event underscored the importance of sustainable institutional arrangements and capacity building in implementing the Paris Agreement. It showcased how integrating climate action planning into long-term development strategies, supported by robust institutional frameworks, could address capacity-building challenges.

ICAT participated as a panelist, sharing insights on how its tools could support countries in aligning their NDCs and BTRs for more effective climate action. ICAT emphasized the links between BTRs and NDCs. ICAT support was provided to countries in a way that enabled them to use the same solid data for BTRs, NDC updates, and NDC implementation plans. The ICAT toolbox had valuable resources for building integrated MRV frameworks enabling the collection and reporting of this data. Highlights from the ICAT toolbox presented at the event included the [Greenhouse Gas Abatement Cost Model](#) and the [Climate Finance Transparency Guide](#).

Vision of the transparency professional training programme for developing countries

Tuesday, 19 November 2024

Hosted by the UNFCCC Secretariat

The objective of this side event was to raise awareness of the UNFCCC Climate Action and Support Transparency Training (UNFCCC-CASTT) programme's three training initiatives:

- The UNFCCC-CASTT programme on greenhouse gases;

- the Adaptation Academy on best practices for climate risk assessment and reduction, adaptation planning, and reporting; and
- the ETF Blended Training, organized by ICAT and focusing on transparency frameworks and mitigation policy assessment.

Participants from past editions of related training courses shared their experiences, offering positive feedback and underscoring the need for continued training of national technicians. These courses were noted for their complementary nature, providing participants with a more comprehensive understanding and preparation for their roles.



ICAT participated as a panelist at the event, presenting the course, its aims and structure, as well as feedback and experiences from the five previous rounds of the course and future plans for 2025. Other speakers included the Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance, Knowledge Exchange Initiative, the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation, and the Asian Institute of Technology.

Towards increased financial support for methane reduction in Nigeria

Tuesday, 19 November 2024

Hosted by Nigeria

Methane, a potent greenhouse gas, is responsible for approximately half a degree Celsius of current global warming, with a warming potential 80 times greater than carbon dioxide over its first 20 years in the atmosphere. Nigeria, as a global methane champion, committed to reducing methane emissions, especially from the oil and gas sector, through



collaborative efforts with various international organizations and regulatory bodies.

This side event served as a platform to discuss strategies for increasing financial support to sustain and accelerate methane reduction efforts, showcased achievements to date, and highlighted areas requiring urgent intervention to ensure Nigeria's methane reduction goals were met.

The ICAT Director participated as a panelist in the event, contributing expertise on methane MRV and the role of transparency frameworks in supporting mitigation strategies. He referred to results from the ICAT project in Nigeria that had reviewed the MRV framework in the country and highlighted the importance of an integrated approach to ensure effective monitoring of efforts, including the use of various advanced measurement methods.

Other speakers included the Nigeria Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority, and Carbon-Limits Nigeria.

Advancing Climate Transparency: Opportunities through Action for Climate Empowerment

Tuesday, 19 November 2024

Hosted by the UNFCCC Secretariat

[Watch the recording](#)

This event responded to the Glasgow Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE), adopted at COP26, which promoted policy coherence and international cooperation by inviting the COP Presidencies to convene an in-session event focused on a thematic area relevant to the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

The event provided a timely opportunity for policymakers, practitioners, businesses, and civil society to exchange on the



role the ACE toolbox played in fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders to support climate transparency processes.

ICAT participated as a panelist in the event, contributing insights on how climate transparency frameworks support the work programme's objectives and help advance international climate action. Stakeholders are crucial for generating quality information essential to the design, implementation, and monitoring of effective climate policies. ICAT presented the Stakeholder Participation Guide which emphasizes the importance of involving stakeholders in all stages of climate action. This approach enhances policy effectiveness and can lead to better data collection and analysis.

Speakers included representatives of the COP29 Presidency, Climate Outreach, UNFCCC, Ecuador, Norway, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States of America.

Experiences and lessons learned in delivering support to facilitate BTR1 preparation and to enhance capacities to implement the ETF

Tuesday, 19 November 2024

Hosted by the UNFCCC Secretariat

For developing countries to be able to monitor progress on their NDCs, prepare their first BTRs, and fully implement the ETF, a key priority remains enhancing their technical capacities. Many countries have already accessed support opportunities. However, effective NDC implementation requires specialized skills and technical knowledge, which remain limited or underdeveloped.

During the event, participants highlighted the importance of ongoing capacity-building efforts. The event also served as a platform to discuss lessons learned, share best practices, and emphasize the importance of tailored capacity-building initiatives to enhance climate reporting and ETF implementation.

The ICAT Director was a panelist at the event. He stressed the priority for 2025 was to make good use of the data compiled for the BTR in updating the NDCs. ICAT was well positioned to support countries in assessing the effect of various measures so they could expand on what was working, and revise what was not. In turn, this would enable countries to strengthen their NDCs.

Speakers included ICAT, UNEP-Copenhagen Climate Centre, UNEP, UNDP, FAO, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Council on Energy, Environment and Water.

illuminating equity: Technical in-session dialogue on gender in transparency

Thursday, 21 November 2024

Hosted by UN Climate Change

[Watch the recording](#)

During the event, ICAT introduced its working paper, [Good Practices for Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Transparency Frameworks](#), highlighting the importance of gender-responsive approaches in making climate action more inclusive, sustainable, and effective. Gender mainstreaming within transparency frameworks plays a crucial role in enhancing climate action and addressing gender equality gaps. By including gender data and disaggregating information, governments and stakeholders can better assess the differentiated impacts of climate policies, identify gaps in implementation, and plan more comprehensive and effective strategies.



The technical dialogue delved into recent findings on gender integration in reporting under the UNFCCC, strategies to enhance the availability of gender-disaggregated data, and the resources available to support gender mainstreaming within transparency efforts.

The ICAT working paper reviews good practices in integrating gender considerations into climate transparency frameworks, helping countries identify support needs and unlock resources to improve implementation. This effort underscores the broader importance of embedding gender considerations into global climate policy and reporting systems.

Bilateral meetings

During the two weeks of COP29, the ICAT Secretariat engaged with representatives from its partner countries and various institutions to discuss the progress of ongoing ICAT activities and to prepare for new projects. In total, the ICAT Secretariat held 35 meetings, fostering collaboration and advancing climate action transparency initiatives.



Meetings were held with representatives of the following countries: Belize, Bhutan, Botswana, Burundi, Cambodia, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Nigeria (Federal Ministry of Health; Nigeria National Council on Climate Change); Nigerian

Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, Pakistan, Peru, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uganda, and Zambia.

Additionally, the ICAT Secretariat met with five regional and global institutions, including the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, Fundación Natura Panamá, the Presidential Climate Commission of South Africa, S&P Global, and The Energy and Resources Institute, TERI.